

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Capitalistic Areas

With the resumption of East-West trade, offers of wire were plentiful. This held true for steel wire of less than 100 kg. as well as over 100 kg. strength. Since our requirements for this commodity are covered for the most part, only a few contracts were signed. Orders for certain special types of wire demanded by the DDR could not be placed in the East-West trade area. For these we are still dependent on the capitalistic countries. Import possibilities do not yet exist in view of well-known difficulties. The DIA/SUKAR agreement with Sweden is progressing according to plan and theoretically will be ratified by Sweden by 30 June 1952.

2. Strip Steel and Spring Strip Steel

These items can only be delivered in 10-14 months because of the short raw material supply. The fact that the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies can deliver these materials only in very small quantities, if at all, aggravates this situation. As a result, several unauthorized and opportunistic traders in West Berlin and West Germany have recently offered us materials of this type which they have in store. Their exorbitant prices must not be accepted, although the materials are of critical importance.

3. The Soviet Union and the People's Democracies

Trade agreements signed with Czechoslovakia are progressing satisfactorily. However, Czechoslovakia often sets the delivery dates too far in the future. This is the case with cold-rolled low carbon steel which is urgently needed here yet cannot be delivered before November or December. The Soviet Union has not contracted delivery dates.

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4. Status of Special Materials

There is still a bottleneck in the procurement of tire wire. The People's Democracies and the Soviet Union can supply only 50% of requirements. Switzerland has offered to sell from existing stocks but the "hard" currency situation does not permit conclusion of contracts. The same applies to Dumet wire¹ which cannot be imported from the People's Democracies or the Soviet Union, although it is of vital importance to specific DDR industries. Offers from capitalistic countries are unacceptable for the reasons mentioned above. A similar critical situation exists in relation to anti-magnetic steel tire wire (antimagnetischer Bandagenstahldraht) and purest iron wire. We have no basis for negotiating imports of the latter material since we are not in possession of any price statistics. A query as to prices has been placed with DDR consumer plants.

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Comment: Kupfermanteldraht (wrapped copper wire).

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